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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1310
INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAHLA/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASH DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 001327

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/IPA FOR WILLIAMS/GREENE/WAECHTER;
NEA/RA FOR LAWSON; OES FOR DALEY; NSC FOR ABRAMS, DORAN,
MUSTAFA; STATE PASS TO USAID/BORODIN; STATE PASS TO USDA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KFLU](#) [TBIO](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: AI SITREP MARCH 31: PA CULLS 96,700 FOWL IN GAZA;
ISRAELI OUTBREAK IN NEGEV

REF: JERUSALEM 1283

11. (SBU) WHO Representative Mahmud Daher reported to EconOff March 31 that the PA had completed the culling and burial of 96,700 birds from all infected areas in Gaza. He said the PA continued to conduct surveillance and to monitor areas where these outbreaks had occurred. Samples taken from the Gaza areas of Beit Lahiya, el-Masadar village (between Bureij and Maghaza refugee camps), Deir el-Balah, the Zaytoon area of Gaza city, and Jabalia had returned with negative results for Avian Influenza (AI).

WHO meeting on farmer compensation

12. (SBU) In a March 30 WHO-chaired meeting with donors and the Palestinian Authority (PA), farmer compensation was the central topic, according to WHO official Fathi Abu Moghli. In addition to the promised USD 2 million by the World Bank, the EC confirmed that it would provide 10 million euros (USD 12 million) for farmer compensation after the World Bank assessment was completed. Abu Moghli said the group discussed the possible protein deficiencies for both Palestinian children and adults that could likely develop should all of Gaza's 2.5 million poultry have to be culled. WHO representatives said the PA still needed the following assistance:

- Tamiflu capsules (only 2,500 capsules had arrived);
- PPE kits (3,000 kits had arrived, including 1500 from USAID);
- Disinfectants;
- Public Awareness campaign activities;
- Poisons should further culling be necessary in Gaza; and
- Electric Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine for MOA to test for AI (estimated cost is USD 45,000).

Israeli outbreak in Negev

13. (SBU) H5N1 has been confirmed at Kibbutz Kerem Shalom in

the western Negev, adjacent to the borders with Egypt and Gaza, and very close to Holit, one of the original sites of the recent outbreak in Israel. Kibbutz Kerem Shalom was placed under close inspection and isolated. Culling has already begun on the flock of 21,000 nine-week old turkeys there. Israeli MOA contacts believe the disease may have spread from the transport of poultry by the Kibbutz Kerem Shalom manager, who also manages the Holit turkey farm.

¶4. (U) Nahum Barnea and Shimon Shiffer, commenting in Yedioth Ahronoth on March 31, noted that bird flu offered hope for coexistence, at least in the poultry sector, citing a Haaretz article on cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian Agriculture Ministries to eradicate the disease following an outbreak at a Jewish settlement in the Jordan Valley/West Bank. Israeli Police headquarters stated in the article that cooperation in the Jordan Valley is very good.
WALLES